

Director's Column

Henry L. Green

The question often arises 'What impact does a change in the code have on projects that are in mid-design or in the course of construction?'

Ultimately, a determination of which code applies should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety (BCCFS) has developed the following scenarios to help determine how your project is impacted.

- When a project is in the design phase, professionals and construction contractors should be engaged in on-going discussions with the code officials regarding project requirements from the on-set of the project. Therefore, when code changes are being contemplated, they would be discussed up front so that all parties are aware of potential changes that may impact the design of a particular project.
- When a project design is likely to be completed prior to the enactment of new code provisions, but the project is not submitted prior to the effective date of the new code, the new changes would need to be contemplated.

Continued on page 2.

Bulletin receives new look

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety (BCCFS) has revamped the look of the Bulletin. The new format makes it easier to read on line and find information. Now, articles are arranged in alphabetical order by division names - Boiler, Building, Electrical all the way through to Plumbing.

General BCCFS information can be found on the first two pages of the Bulletin and more broad-topic stories will be located toward the end.

The BCCFS will continue with both the e-mail and paper distribution of the Bulletin through the May 2005 edition. After that, the Bulletin will only be available on line under the 'Publications' link on the www.michigan.gov/bccfs web site.

New Fire Marshal Envisions safer Michigan

Andy Neumann
State Fire Marshal

I am honored and humbled to be the new fire marshal for the state of Michigan. My heart and background have always been in the fire service and being the state fire marshal is the best way I can think of to support and strengthen our state's fire service organizations.

I have had the privilege to experience different careers in my life. Until now, working in the Alpena Fire Department had been the most rewarding. I now know that my work as fire marshal will truly be the most rewarding and enriching opportunity in my fire service career.

Ultimately, as state fire marshal my goal is to make Michigan a safer place to live by having a well-trained and well-prepared fire service network.

Over the next few months you will see some changes to the Office of the State Fire Marshal that will make the operation more effective and efficient. The first change occurred in October when the office consolidated all its staff into one location at 6546 Mercantile, off of I-96 in south Lansing. This move will help us better serve you by having all our staff under one roof.

Our transition to the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, Department of Labor and Economic Growth will help us continue the tradition of quality services and education for the state's fire service organizations while providing new opportunities to strengthen our operations and your ability to serve your communities. I look forward to working with you and hearing your thoughts on making Michigan a safer place to live.

MFFTC welcomes Grutza

BCCFS welcomes **Joseph (Joe) Grutza** as Director of the Michigan Fire Fighters' Training Council (MFFTC). Joe's appointment was effective September 13, 2004.

Joe began his career as a fire fighter in 1975 for the city of Trenton and worked his way up through the ranks. Joe was appointed chief of the Trenton Fire Department in March 1995. During his 28 years with the Trenton Fire Department Joe served as president of the Trenton Firemen's Association, state district vice president of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union and president of Southeastern Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.

Joe is enthusiastic about his new role as director of the MFFTC and is looking forward to working with 1,080 fire departments and more than 34,000 fire fighters and officers in Michigan.

The MFFTC can be reached at (517) 322-5444.



News from inside the Bureau

Director's Column, cont.

However, as stated in the above case, where the design professional has submitted preliminary design documents for discussion with a code official it may be argued that while the application had not been submitted, the code official and design professional were engaged in review of the project before the actual submission of the finalized plans.

- Once the plans have been approved or the permit has been issued, the code under which the project was approved/issued is the applicable code throughout the completion of the project.

A person aggrieved by a decision of a local or state code official may appeal the code official's decision to the local unit of government's construction board of appeals, pursuant to the provisions of Section 15 of the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act. A local unit of government's construction board of appeals may grant a variance where the literal application of the requirement would result in an exceptional, practical difficulty where the performance of the particular item with respect to the variance being sought meets the intended performance of the code and does not compromise the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and the specific condition justifying the variance is not so general in nature as to cause an amendment to the code.

Sanfilippo - fire Inspector of the year

Tony Sanfilippo, deputy director of Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, received the Fire Inspector of the Year award during the 55th Annual Conference of the Michigan Fire Inspector Society on September 16, 2004. Tony has been a member of the Michigan Fire Inspector Society (MFIS) for more than 19 years and serves on the MFIS planning committee.

Tony became involved in the fire service work in 1980 as a paid on-call fire fighter. In 1985 he was hired as a full-time fire inspector for Oshtemo Township in Kalamazoo, where he rose through ranks of fire investigator, battalion chief and finally fire chief in 1990.

In 1997 Tony began his career with the state of Michigan when the Office of Fire Safety was formed by executive order. Tony belongs to the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society,

International Fire Marshal Association and is currently on the Technical Code Committees for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).



Andy Neumann (left) presents Tony Sanfillipo with the "Fire Inspector of the Year Award."

Nemeth Recognized for service

Mary Nemeth of the Office of State Fire Marshal was honored at a Michigan Arson Prevention Committee luncheon on September 14. Mary received a plaque commending her for her outstanding dedication and service to the prevention of arson in the state of Michigan. Also recognized during the luncheon were Representative Larry Julian and Paul Wilcox of the Michigan Firemen's Association. Congratulations Mary!



Pictured (l to r) are: Paul Wilcox, Jim LaBuhn, Executive Secretary of the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee; Mary Nemeth and Rep. Larry Julian.

Boiler Division

Installation of Low-Pressure Boilers

Robert Aben, Chief
Boiler Division

Installation of low-pressure boiler systems can be confusing because it is governed by several different state codes. A low-pressure boiler according to the boiler law is any boiler operating at 15 psig or less **steam**, or 160 psig or 250⁰ F or less **water**. Any boiler system exceeding those parameters is classed as high-pressure. The state of Michigan boiler law and rules, and the standards adopted by it, govern the installation of a high-pressure boiler and its piping.

Installation of low-pressure boiler systems are governed more by the state of Michigan mechanical law and rules than the boiler law and rules. In commercial locations the boiler itself must meet the requirements of the boiler law for the standard of construction and outfitting of controls and safety devices. The system piping,

combustion air and venting are governed by the Michigan Mechanical Code. In residential locations, with occupancies of less than six families, the boilers and systems are governed by the Michigan Mechanical Code.

Low-pressure boilers used for space heating or domestic water supply must be designed, built, trimmed, and installed in accordance with American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) code section IV: Heating Boilers. Current state of Michigan boiler and mechanical laws require that an individual be licensed as a boiler installer for the installation of all boilers regardless of location.

If you have questions regarding the installation of low-pressure boilers please contact the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334 or the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325 before you perform the installation. It is easier, and less expensive, to ask for clarification than to fix a mistake.

Building Division

Weather-resistive sheathing paper

Larry Lehman, Chief
Building Division

Weather-resistive sheathing papers or approved alternative materials are now required to be installed beneath exterior siding materials by both the 2003 Michigan Residential Code (MRC), R 703.2 and the 2003 Michigan Building Code (MBC), section 1404.2. Both codes require that No.15 or type 1 felt complying with ASTM D 226 **or other approved weather-resistive materials** shall be applied over sheathing of all exterior walls. The only exception is for detached accessory structures.

Where other approved weather-resistive materials are used, they must be approved by the building official in accordance with 104.11 of the building code and R 104.11 of the residential code as an approved alternative material. The information necessary for this type of approval is generally National Evaluation Reports issued by

the International Code Councils', Evaluation Services. The reports provide documentation that the product when installed in accordance with manufacturers installation instructions and the conditions of the report will achieve the necessary weather-resistive barrier protection.

It is important to note the exterior weather-resistive barrier must cover the entire exterior envelope including gabled ends and must be incorporated with building flashings to provide complete secondary moisture protection for the exterior wall. In some installations like brick veneer, the weather-resistive sheathing paper is part of a system that, when properly constructed, provides a cavity for the drainage of moisture through weep holes installed above grade.

Questions should be directed to the Building Division at (517) 241-9317.

Scheduled Board Meetings

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Barrier Free Design Board	Nov. 12, Jan. 21	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	Dec. 7, Mar. 15	9:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Construction Code Commission	Nov. 3, Jan. 5	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Dec. 3, Feb. 4	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	Nov. 19, Jan. 28	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Fire Fighters' Training Council	Dec. 8, Feb. 9	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Manufactured Housing Commission	Dec. 22, Feb. 16	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Mechanical Rules	January 26	9:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Fire Safety Board	Dec. 8, Jan. 27	1:00 pm	Okemos – Conf Room 1
State Plumbing Board	November 30	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Plumbing Board	January 12	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 1

Electrical Division

Electricians from EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Virgil Monroe, Chief
Electrical Division

Recently, the division has received a number of telephone calls concerning employment agencies sending employees out to work for electrical contractors. The question is whether this practice is allowed pursuant to the Electrical Administrative Act, 1956 PA 217.

338.887 Sec. 7 (2) states, **“Except as otherwise provided in this act or in subsection (3), a person, other than a person licensed under this act and employed by and working under the direction of a holder of an electrical contractor’s license, shall not in any manner undertake to execute any electrical wiring.”** Stated simply, if a person is installing electrical wiring, that person must be licensed as either a master electrician or journeyman or be registered as an electrical apprentice. An electrical contractor or the holder of an electrical affidavit must also employ that person. This means that such a person must be on the payroll of the electrical contractor or the holder of an electrical affidavit.

Also, a person must be employed by an electrical contractor, or the holder of an electrical affidavit, to register as an electrical apprentice. That company must validate the required work experience for the apprentice when he/she applies for the electrical journey examination. This also applies to journeymen applying to take the masters examination.

A person on the payroll of an employment agency, even though he/she is working under the direction of an electrical contractor, would be in violation of the act since the employer is not an electrical contractor.

Questions may be directed to the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

elevator Safety Division

Hoistway Access Switches

Calvin W. Rogler, Chief
Elevator Safety Division

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) A17.1-2000 adopted new requirements for hoistway access switches. These changes became effective on December 31, 2003. Section 2.12.7 addresses hoistway access switches and is divided into two subparts, 2.12.7.1.1 and 2.12.7.1.2. ASME A17.1-2000, Section 2.12.7.1.1 states:

Hoistway access switches shall be provided when the rated speed is greater than 0.75 m/s (150 ft/min) at:

- (a) the lowest landing for access to the pit, when a separate pit access door is not provided; and
- (b) the top landing for access to the top of the car.

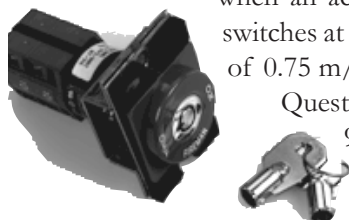
ASME A17.1-2000, Section 2.12.7.1.2 states:

For elevators with a speed of 0.75 m/s (150 ft/min) or less, hoistway access switches shall be provided at the top landing when the distance from the top of the car to the landing sill exceeds 900 mm (35 in.) when the car platform is level with the landing immediately below the top landing.

As stated above when the **rated speed is greater than 0.75 m/s (150 ft/min)** hoistway access switches are always required at the top landing and would also be necessary at the bottom landing unless a separate pit access door is provided.

For **rated speeds of 0.75 m/s (150 ft/min) or less**, hoistway access switches are required at the top landing only when the distance from the top floor landing sill to the top of the car exceeds 900 mm (35 in.). This measurement is to be taken when the car platform is level with the landing immediately below the top landing. This is to assure safe access to the top of the car when an access switch is not provided at the top landing. Hoistway access switches at the bottom landing are not required by this section for rated speeds of 0.75 m/s (150 ft/min) or less.

Questions may be directed to the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.



State Holidays

Offices closed:

New Year

December 30, 31

Martin Luther King Day

January 17

Presidents' Day

February 21

Veterans' Day

November 11

Thanksgiving

November 25, 26

Christmas

December 23, 24

The Bulletin is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Editor in Chief:

Henry L. Green

Editor:

Beth Hunter Aben

October 3-9 marked the 82nd annual Fire Prevention Week sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This year's theme was: "It's Fire Prevention Week – Test Your Smoke Alarms."

This year's state outreach effort consisted of Andy Neumann, State Fire Marshal, calling radio stations across the state to remind everyone to test their smoke alarms. Information and a proclamation announcing Fire Prevention Week from Governor Granholm were posted on the BCCFS web site.

"Even though smoke alarms are now widely popular, nationally 70 percent of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or nonworking smoke alarms," said Neumann. "If a home fire occurs, smoke alarms cut your chances of dying nearly in half."

There were 11,816 reported home fires in Michigan in 2003, which resulted in 147 deaths. Only 44 percent of the homes where a fire death occurred had smoke alarms present. Over half of those devices did not work, most often because of missing, dead or disconnected batteries.



Fire Fighters' Training Council

Training Burns in Acquired Structures

Before fire departments burn a structure for a live fire training exercise there are a few things they need to understand.

1. Michigan Fire Fighters' Training Council (MFFTC) does not authorize live fire training for fire fighter I & II courses in an acquired structure. Live fire training must be conducted in an engineered burn building designed for repetitive burns, utilizing class A combustible materials or gas fired systems. This is the Michigan Fire Fighters' Training Council policy 2-13.

2. The Asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), 40 CFR, Part 61, Subpart M, regulates renovations including asbestos removal and demolition activities at commercial/industrial structure, installation or building. Under the NESHAP, all owners/operators are fully liable for compliance.

Intentional burning for fire training is regulated by these state and federal standards. City and township governments are covered under these regulations and are liable for any violations. Generally, privately-owned, residential structures (4 or less dwelling units) are exempt from the above regulation. **However, if these structures are to be intentionally burned, they are regulated by the Asbestos NESHAP, as is any other type of building intentionally burned.**

Prior to beginning the burn, the NESHAP requires:

- A thorough survey to determine the presence of asbestos. This must be conducted by a person trained in the NESHAP regulations and trained in recognizing suspect asbestos-containing material. Sample analysis must be performed to determine the presence of asbestos.
- **All** asbestos-containing materials must be removed and disposed of in accordance with the NESHAP.
- A "Notification of Intent to Renovate/Demolish" form must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division, at least 10 **working** days prior to beginning the burn.

Other projects involving renovation/demolition may be regulated by the NESHAP. For questions or to obtain a copy of these regulations and other pertinent documents, information can be found on the internet at www.michigan.gov/deq and type "NESHAP" in the search function. This site outlines the regulations, guidance for submitting a notification of renovation and/or demolition, a fact sheet to help you understand the NESHAP, and the form "Notification of Intent to Renovate/Demolish."

Specific questions regarding asbestos and training burns south of Houghton Lake can be directed to Mr. Bob Christmas at (517) 335-4639

or his assistant Ms. Julia Munro at (517) 241-7463. Questions about training burns north of Houghton Lake can be directed to Mr. Joel Asher at (906) 346-8502 and questions for Wayne County can be directed to Mr. Tom Vincent at (313) 456-4686.



Local Government & Consumer Services

Fire Inspector Certification and Continuing Education

Scott D. Fisher, Director

Local Government & Consumer Services

Several changes made relative to the certification of fire inspectors and the continuing education (CE) programs required to maintain their state certification were outlined in the February 2004 issue of the *'Bulletin'*. These changes are a result of the consolidation of the Office of Fire Safety and the Bureau of Construction Codes, and the desire to enhance the quality of service to the certified fire inspectors in Michigan.

Changes included consolidation of the program rosters into one roster to be used for code officials and fire inspectors, and the change to a common expiration date for all fire inspectors that become certified, or re-certified, after January 1, 2004.

During the September 14, 2004, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society Fall Educational Seminar more recent changes were discussed and are outlined below.

Wall and Wallet Certifications

The business card-type certification that was previously issued has changed and will appear to be very similar to those issued to code officials. The certification will consist of two parts - one to be mounted on the wall and the other that is intended as wallet identification.

Pro-Ration of Continuing Education Hours

Because the expiration of the certifications are now on a common date, a schedule was prepared to pro-rate the number of CE hours a new fire inspector will need for re-certification. The number of hours is based on the number of months remaining in the certification cycle prior to the requirement to re-certify. Upon his/her initial certification, the inspector will be informed in writing of the number of CE required during the cycle. (Example: If a

person becomes certified with 36 months left in a three-year cycle, they will be required to obtain 60 hours of CE to re-certify. With 24 months remaining in the cycle a person is required to achieve 36 hours, etc.)

Tracking of Information

In order to track information relating to each inspector's CE hours, staff have developed a computer program to capture the program number, program date, and number of credits approved for each course.

Credit Statements

In conjunction with the computer program, staff have also developed a credit statement that may be generated by computer and sent to the inspectors periodically during the cycle. The program will provide immediate access to information which answers questions relating to the status of an individual's certification, their employer, the number of CE hours that have been obtained at a given point, the remaining number that need to be obtained, etc.

Program Attendance Rosters

Information on the program attendance rosters is used to document CE hours credited to both the registered code official and certified fire inspector. These hours are differentiated via the registration or certification number issued. Therefore, it is important for an individual to use the correct number in the correct column. If you are a registered code official and a certified fire inspector use both numbers on a program attendance roster when signing in and out. If you do not know your registration or certification number refer to your wallet copy.

To receive CE credits for your state certified fire inspector status, you must attend a program approved by this office and use the

Continued on page 7.

BCC&FS Contact Information

Mailing Addresses:

P.O. Box 30254 (Codes: general correspondence)
P.O. Box 30255 (Codes: permits, licenses, and other documents containing payment)
P.O. Box 30700 (Office of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Fighters' Training Council)
P.O. Box 30704 (Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation)
P.O. Box 30222 (Office of Local Government and Consumer Services)
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Physical Addresses:

2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos: Administration; Office of Administrative Services; Office of Management Services; Building Division; Electrical Division; Mechanical Division; Plan Review Division; and Plumbing Division

6546 Mercantile Way, Lansing: Office of the State Fire Marshal; Fire Fighters' Training Council; Office of Local Government and Consumer Services; Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation; Boiler Division; Elevator Safety Division

Telephone Numbers:

Administration (517) 241-9302
Office of Administrative Services (517) 335-2972
Office of Management Services (517) 241-9313
Boiler Division (517) 241-9334
Building Division (517) 241-9317
Electrical Division (517) 241-9320
Elevator Safety Division (517) 241-9337
Fire Fighters' Training Council (517) 373-7981
Mechanical Division (517) 241-9325
Office of Local Government and Consumer Services (517) 241-9347
Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation (517) 241-6321
Office of the State Fire Marshal (517) 241-8847
Plan Review Division (517) 241-9328
Plumbing Division (517) 241-9330

Mechanical Division

Residential Duct Insulation

Tennison Barry, Chief
Mechanical Division

The Mechanical Division has received a number of questions regarding what R factors are required for duct insulation in residences. Michigan Residential Code 2003 Section M1601.3.4 subsection 4 reads "all portions of the air distribution system shall be installed in accordance with section M1601 and be insulated to an installed R-5 when system components are located within the building but outside the conditioned space, and R-8 when located outside to the building." When located within a building envelope assembly at least R8 shall be applied between the duct and that portion of the assembly farthest from the conditioned space.

Listed below are frequently asked "R factor" questions:

Q) What R factor for duct insulation is required in an attic or non-conditioned crawl space?

A) Minimum of R5

Q) What R factor for duct insulation is required for ducts outside of the building?

A) Minimum of R8

Q) What R factor is required for duct installation in an outside wall; and can the sheathing be counted in the R factor?

A) A minimum of R8 and the sheathing can be considered.

Additional questions may be directed to the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.



Continuing Education, cont.

certification number that was issued to you by this office. It is not necessary to record the number issued to you by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

If you have completed your NFPA certification and you have applied or will be applying to become state certified, sign the program roster and write 'PENDING' in the column requiring a certification number. This will grant you credit toward your CE hours.

Occasionally, inspectors certified by the state attend certified training programs to enhance their individual department training. Signing the attendance rosters provides documentation to their employers of attendance at a particular training. If you need to sign the roster for individual department documentation, please note on the roster that you are NOT REGISTERED. This will eliminate confusion during the data entry process and attempts to locate a file that does not exist.

Questions may be directed to Scott D. Fisher, Director, Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

License Examination Schedule

Examination	Date	Location	Deadline
Boiler Installer and Repair	December 1&2	Okemos	November 3
Journeyman Electrician	December 13, 14, 15	Okemos	November 10
Master Electrician	December 16	Okemos	November 16
Elevator Journeyman	December 15	Okemos	November 24
Mechanical Contractor	December 1 & 2	Detroit	November 1 & 2
Master and Journey Plumbers	December 1	East Lansing	

Dates and location subject to change



Plan Review division

The Right of a Construction Appeal

Irvin J. Poke, AIA, Chief
Plan Review Division

In the past 30-day period three petitions of appeal were received by the bureau in which local enforcing agencies refused to schedule appeals. In two cases the building officials indicated that the board of appeals could not hear the appeal based on 1972 PA 230 section 15. In the third case the building official polled the board of appeals and refused to schedule a hearing based on the board's belief the appeal violated 1972 PA 230 section 15. Section 15 reads as follows:

“(1) After a public hearing a board of appeals may grant a specific variance to a substantive requirement of the code if the literal application of the substantive requirement would result in an exceptional, practical difficulty to the applicant, and if both of the following requirements are satisfied:

(a) The performance of the particular item or part of the building or structure with respect to which the variance is granted shall be adequate for its intended use and shall not substantially deviate from performance required by the code of that particular item or part for the health, safety and welfare of the people of this state.

(b) The specific condition justifying the variance shall be neither so general nor recurrent in nature as to make an amendment of the code with respect to the condition reasonably practical or desirable.

(2) A board of appeals may attach in writing any condition in connection with the granting of a variance that in its judgment is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of

this state. The breach of a condition shall automatically invalidate the variance and any permit, license and certificate granted on the basis of it. In no case shall more than minimum variance from the code be granted than is necessary to alleviate the exceptional, practical difficulty.”

Section 15 is not to be used to decide when to hear an appeal but sets the standard for deciding if relief from the code is warranted. It shall be noted that section 15(1) says this criteria shall be applied “after a public hearing.” The local enforcing agency is obligated to schedule an appeal without regard to the requested relief. Section 14 of 1972 PA 230 states in part:

“If an enforcing agency refuses to grant an application for a building permit, or if the enforcing agency makes any other decision pursuant or related to this act, or the code, an interested person, or the person's authorized agent, may appeal in writing to the board of appeals. The board of appeals shall hear the appeal and render and file its decision with a statement of reasons for the decision with the enforcing agency from whom the appeal was taken not more than 30 days after submission of the appeal.”

This specifically says the board of appeals shall hear the appeal and render a decision in 30 days. This establishes the right of any interested person to have their day in court. An enforcing agency cannot prejudice the merit of an appeal and abridge the right provided by law.

Michigan Barrier Free Design Graphic Manual

Irvin J. Poke, AIA, Chief
Plan Review Division

The Construction Code Commission last published the Michigan Barrier Free Design Graphic Manual in June of 1987. All versions of the manual with this title after this date are published by a private concern. These documents have not been reviewed or approved by the commission and have no legal standing.

We have received complaints that building inspectors are using these documents for enforcement of the state barrier free design requirements. Since the commission has not approved these documents for compliance with the 2003 Michigan Building Code, we will not be responsible for any errors resulting from the use of these documents. There has been one case where the use of one of these documents caused a violation, and the Barrier Free Design Board denied the requested exception based on use of the wrong document.

The only documents that shall be used by code officials for the enforcement of Barrier Free Design are the 2003 Michigan Building Code and the ICC/ANSI A117.1-98 standard. The Bureau will render interpretations based on only the official documents.



Plumbing Division

PLUMBING PERMIT ISSUANCE

Bob Konyndyk, Chief
Plumbing Division

The new state plumbing act, 2002 PA 733, MCL 338.3511, established the licensing of plumbing contractors and provided information on obtaining plumbing permits. Section 15 of the act provides clarification that a person shall not engage in or work at the business of plumbing unless licensed. The Plumbing Division, Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth administers the plumbing licensing functions for the state of Michigan.

Section 15 of the act further clarifies that plumbing shall not be performed unless the responsible plumbing contractor has secured a permit. Letters from licensed plumbing contractors attempting to give authority to any other person are not acceptable. The license is not transferable. Permits, of course, are issued by the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety or authorized governmental subdivision, dependent upon who has code enforcement jurisdiction.

Section 41 (2) of the act states that permits are only issued to the licensed plumbing contractor. This section further identifies that the contractor and master plumber license numbers shall be recorded on the permit application. The section reference to a contractor designating a master plumber to obtain a permit applies to the master listed on the bureau's licensing system representing that branch. The identified master plumber is listed in accordance with the act, section 21 (3), as in charge and having responsibility of supervision at the specific branch.

Summarizing, the permit application may be signed by the plumbing contractor or master plumber of record. Local governmental subdivisions are aided in issuance by noting that a master plumber of record has a company name listed on their pocket and wall license.

Questions may be directed to the Plumbing Division at (517) 241-9330.

Home Fire Safety for the Holidays

With the arrival of the holiday season comes an increased risk of fire from the many additional combustibles such as Christmas trees, ornaments, decorations, wrapping paper, and additional heat sources including lights, extension cords, and candles.

According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) Christmas trees are involved in more than 400 fires annually, resulting in 20 deaths, 70 injuries and an average of more than \$15 million in property loss and damage. In addition, there are 11,000 candle-related fires each year, resulting in 150 deaths and 1,200 injuries annually.

Following these fire safety tips will help ensure a safe and happy holiday season for you and your family.

- Consider purchasing an artificial tree because they are safer and cleaner.
- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree will not catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- When purchasing a live tree, look for a trunk sticky with sap, green needles that bend and are secured to the branches. A fresh tree should not lose green needles when you tap it on the ground.
- Leave the tree outside until ready to decorate.
- Re-cut the trunk at least one inch above the old cut. This removes the scarred tissue of the old cut and opens up the tree's veins allowing it to continue to pull moisture into its foliage.
- The tree stand should hold at least one gallon of water with a sturdy base sized appropriately. A six-foot tree will use one gallon of water every two days. Check the water level daily.

- Clean the stand water reservoir with a capful of bleach mixed in water. This inhibits the growth of organisms that can block the tree's intake of water. In addition, you can mix a commercial preservative with the water you use to add to the tree.
- Spraying the Christmas tree with a non-toxic flame retardant is always a good idea.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source and try to position it near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.
- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby and be sure how to use it. (Remember PASS: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep). In case of a fire, remember you only have seconds to put it out or GET OUT!
- Properly dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage, or placed against the house.

